

APPROVED: Meeting No. 16-95

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 01-95

January 3, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on January 3, 1995, at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell. Also present were Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall, Superintendent of Recreation Phil Bryan, and Superintendent of Parks & Facilities, John Hayes.

Re: Worksession with
Recreation and Park
Advisory Board

The Mayor and Council met with Chairperson Steve Edwards and Board members, Terry Baker, Lou Cornet, Genie McKay, Dirk Schenck, Paul Shields, and Bob Taylor. In addition, Charles Carrocio, scheduled for appointment by the Mayor and Council on January 9th, was also in attendance. The following issues were discussed:

1. Irvington Farm - Mayor Coyle noted that Mrs. Thomas of the Thomas Farm passed away on December 23, 1994. Mr. Romer noted that the Mayor and Council gave staff a

policy directive to work on this annexation; Mrs. Thomas' affairs were administered by Riggs Bank and there might be a move to liquidate the property quickly. Mr. Romer said the timing was fortuitous because of the King Farm and the next couple of years will be important. The two annexations will take into consideration open space and recreation issues. The current development plan for the property is the Shady Grove Master Plan, which is a mixed-use plan.

The Board members agreed that the City needed a good size recreational facility and asked whether there would be opportunities for such on the site of the Farm. Suggestion was made to set aside some acreage from the farm, in case the opportunity came up later so that there would be space for a large recreational facility.

2. Long-Range Planning - Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

The board discussed the future of recreation and parks services and the need for a new strategic plan that corresponds with the City's Master Plan. Advisory Board members feel that this is the time to analyze where they are and take a look at future recreational needs. A suggestion was made to conduct a survey to find out what the needs of the citizens are, determine the types of facilities residents would like, and determine what residents were willing to pay for.

Councilmember Dorsey noted that it would be important to also get input from those who don't normally participate in programs (i.e., parents of very young children, seniors, different ethnic groups, and the business community.)

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The Mayor and Council agreed with the idea of a survey and a feasibility study.

3. Vision 2000

The Board discussed the need to have programs that match the City's community profile and lifestyles of its residents. The City's changing demographics need to be considered as plans for new facilities are developed. This plan needs to be done while also protecting the environment. The Board identified the following as potential future needs which may have to be addressed:

- new lighted soccer, baseball, football fields
- multi-use recreation center(s)
- program enhancements to promote diverse participation
- ice rink
- Irvington Farm (new City-wide park and more)
- new Hometown Holidays
- addition to the Senior Center or a second facility
- completion of civic center master plan (banquet facility)
- fitness facility at swim center
- picnic pavilions
- nature center
- downtown Farmer's Market site
- executive golf course

- enhancements to the hiker-biker trail system
- continued efforts to protect environmentally sensitive areas and open space

The Board then provided an overview of their "Pros Plan" and noted each of the features of the plan. Goals, policies and recommendations would have to be developed for each feature:

- people and places served
- today's park system
- current recreation services
- natural environment
- needs assessment; and
- meeting tomorrow's needs.

Regarding protection of the City's natural environment, Councilmember Krasnow suggested the Mayor and Council might need to look at whether the City should enact laws which would require the creation of buffers between parks and development. It was agreed that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, as well as other City boards and commissions, should be involved at the concept stage of planned development.

4. Ice Rink Project

Mr. Romer reported that The Miller Companies have filed for a Use Permit for property next to Redgate Golf Course. The Board of Appeals is hearing the matter on 2/4/95.

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The proposal is for use of 30,000 square feet to construct a two-story structure that would contain a dual ice rink. In addition, the parking lot would hold 250 vehicles. The property would be abutted by Redgate Golf Course on one side and Rock Creek Park and the City's Public Work's yard on the other.

5. Adult Soccer Fields

Mr. Hall noted that there was a full size field at Mark Twain School in which the City has an "adopt-a-field" arrangement with the County. The City will continue to use Welsh Park on a limited basis for youth soccer in the Fall. Staff will also obtain a traffic order to post "no parking" signs at Welsh Park. For the first time, there will be drop-in soccer fields, and in addition, staff is looking into the possibility of a field site at Rock Terrace.

Mayor Coyle asked that the Board pursue ideas for land for use as an executive golf course. Mr. Hall suggested that one potential site might be the left side of Avery Road--land currently owned by Park and Planning--which would need to be annexed.

6. Hiker/Biker Trails

Mr. Hall noted that the original hiker/biker system had Classes 1, 2, and 3. There is enough interest now to consider enhancing the hiker/biker trail systems, and the Mayor and Council asked that the City Manager give them some ideas on how the City could proceed with enhancement of the system. Councilmember Weisbroth acknowledged that enhancing hiker/biker trails in already developed communities was difficult. Mr. Schenck pointed out that the Irvington Farm connected with the Rock Creek bikeway.

7. Senior Center Addition

Now that the City owns the Center, the Mayor and Council may want to start thinking about a Master Plan for the Center. Staff has thought about expansion of the current site or starting a new center elsewhere.

8. Other Matters - First Night Celebrations

Councilmember Krasnow asked whether the Board had ever considered conducting a First Night New Year's celebration. The First Night celebration is a concept becoming popular in some communities. It involves alcohol-free New Year's Eve events which are family oriented. Councilmember Dorsey remarked that he is familiar with this; Mr. Romer will discuss the idea further with Mr. Dorsey and provide additional information for the Mayor and Council and Advisory Board.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on January 9, 1995, or at the call of the Mayor.